

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectman John Adams at 7:31 p.m.

PRESENT: John Adams, Ronald Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, Sally King, Mark C. Neumann, and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager and Student Liaisons
Tyler Dowling and Nicole Kuhnly

First Selectman Adams wanted to thank town hall staff for all their efforts with managing the storm recovery. It has been a very trying time for everyone and all the time and extra hours they have put in to help have been much appreciated. Everyone has done an outstanding job.

I. PUBLIC SESSION

Scott Hughes, 26 Messenger Road, addressed the Board to remind them that he still does not have power restored yet. He is concerned that his street will be forgotten again as it was in August with Storm Irene. He was assured his street would not be forgotten.

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2011 as presented.

III. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS

No unfinished or tabled business was before the Board.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Resignations and Appointments

Item B was addressed prior to Item A.

Selectman Desrosiers stated that the Democratic Town Committee had four nominees for the Board to consider for appointment to the Charter Revision Commission.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to appoint Annie Hornish (D), 53 Whitman Drive; David W. Russell (D), 33 Spring Glen Drive; Francis J. Brady (D), 14 Thronebrook Road; and James Lofink (D), 3 Juniper Drive. Their terms will expire at the completion of the charge.

Selectman Neumann stated the Republican Town Committee had five nominees for the Board to consider for appointment to the Charter Revision Commission.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to appoint Terri Anne Hahn (D), 6 Allan Place; Sheryl

Litchfield (R), 11 Northwoods Road; Melissa E. Migliocchio (R), 6 Black Oak Drive; Lowell Johnson (R), 289 Simsbury Road; and Bruce E. Murtha (R), 17 Kelly Lane.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to reappoint Edward Guarco (U), 22-R East Street, to the Development Commission. His term will expire January 14, 2013.

B. Consideration of Amending the Charter Revision Commission Membership

The Selectmen wanted to address this amendment resolution, as shown below, before any appointments were accepted. The amendment concerns changing the number of members on the Charter Revision Commission from seven to nine.

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen has appointed a Charter Revision Commission;
and

WHEREAS, said Commission shall consider revisions to the Granby Town Charter and report recommendations to the Board of Selectmen in time for a proposed charter revision question to be placed on the November 6, 2012 Election Ballot; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet this schedule, a report will be due to the Selectmen before June 2012;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charter Revision Commission consist of nine (9) members to consider the following:

1. The timetable and process for budget format and procedure for adoption.
2. Streamlining of the additional appropriation process.
3. Number of members on elected town boards.
4. Consider transition timing of Board changes.
5. Technical considerations that may include conflicting language with state statutes or within the charter, (i.e., town moderator and registrars).
6. Any other matters deemed appropriate by the Commission.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the amended resolution to the Granby Charter Revision Commission.

C. Consideration of Agreement Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Granby for the Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance of the Replacement of the Silver Street Bridge No. 04517

The Silver Street Bridge project is ready for construction. To go forward with the project, the State of Connecticut has requested that an agreement for construction be signed. It is recommended that the following resolution be approved:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager, be and hereby is authorized to sign the agreement entitled “Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Granby for the Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance Required for the Replacement of the Silver Street Bridge (Bridge No. 04517) over the East Branch of Salmon Brook utilizing Federal Funds from the Highway Bridge Program.”

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the resolution authorizing Town Manager Smith to sign the agreement entitled “Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Granby for the Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance Required for the Replacement of the Silver Street Bridge (Bridge No. 04517) over the East Branch of Salmon Brook utilizing Federal Funds from the Highway Bridge Program.

V. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

A. Update on October Storm Alfred

Town Manager Smith reported on the town’s storm recovery efforts with regard to brush and tree removal. It is estimated to cost approximately \$750,000 for tree removal alone. The state will be responsible for the tree and brush removal along the state roads, and the town is responsible for the rest of the roads. The town would like to get started as soon as possible so most, if not all, of the brush can be removed by the first week in December, hopefully before the next snowstorm. The town hopes to use the state’s approved vendor’s list for contractors to help with the removal of brush. Residents are asked to place brush and storm debris along the roadside and off the street five feet from the road edge. Also, no one should drive over any wires, live or not. If residents choose to pick up their own brush and bring it to the transfer station, there will be no charge. Town Manager Smith also talked about the lack of coordination between CL&P, AT&T, COX, and towns. In conjunction with other valley towns, there will be an oversight hearing to discuss how poorly this storm recovery effort was managed.

With an appropriation in place, we can possibly begin pick-up as soon as this week.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the resolution for an appropriation as follows:

WHEREAS, a Declaration of Emergency was issued by the town on October 29, 2011 due to a severe snowstorm known as Storm Alfred resulting in unprecedented power outages throughout the town; and

WHEREAS, severe weather conditions and fallen trees have caused many road closures and widespread power outages in our town; and

WHEREAS, fallen trees and brush debris exist throughout the town, resulting in a serious need to develop a tree and brush disposal program; and

WHEREAS, the town anticipates it will recover 75% of the cost associated with restoring our community from State and Federal agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen appropriate an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for its recovery effort, and to further request that the Board of Finance hold a special meeting to appropriate this sum as soon as possible.

Selectman King asked where the 25% funds will come from that the town is responsible for with regard to recovery efforts. Town Manager Smith responded it would have to come from the General Fund surplus.

Other considerations that have come to light as a result of this past storm are the emergency generator requirements at Town Hall and Lost Acres Fire Department. The current generators are very old and unreliable for long-term emergency use. The town would be obligated to pay for generators at LAFD (\$75,000) and at the Town Hall Complex that would be used here and at the pump station (estimated at \$40,000). The present one at the Town Hall would be used for a back up. It has also been determined that the Senior Center is not conducive to be a shelter. The best place is the Middle School where they could take care of all the needs of a shelter, including food, and showers. The school would need a generator to accomplish this (estimated at \$150,000). The total estimated cost for all of this would be in the range of \$250,000 to \$275,000. It is recommended to send a draft of this to CPPAC for consideration.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve forwarding to CPPAC the need for three generators with an anticipated cost range of \$250,000 to \$275,000 to cover all three.

Town Manager Smith is encouraging town resident's to sign up for emergency notification information at CTAlert@ct.gov

The Senior Center is no longer being used as a shelter. People in need have been moved to a regional shelter located at the Simsbury First Congregational Church.

Schools will be closed tomorrow. Streets are not cleared enough for safe passage. There are still downed wires. There was some discussion among the Selectmen about all the days the schools have been closed and the time the students will have to make up.

The budget operations report for October 2011 was put together last minute for this meeting. The Finance Department has been overwhelmed with service not working but was able to finally get payroll done on time. Getting the bond models put together for the year-end has taken up a lot of their time. The auditors started but have been delayed because of the storm.

VI. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (John Adams)

A. Announce Granby Municipal Election for November 8, 2011 at the Granby Memorial High School

Granby will have a Municipal Election tomorrow, November 8, 2011 at the Granby Memorial High School Community Gym. Polls will open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. For ballot information you may check the town's website at www.granby-ct.gov. Go to Town Departments, then Registrar of Voters.

First Selectman Adams wanted to give a special thanks to Town Manager Smith for a fine job of leading the town during the storm crisis and being available 24 hours a day.

VII. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Sally King, Vice Chairman, Ronald Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, & Mark Neumann, and Tyler Dowling and Nicole Kuhnly, Student Liaisons)

Selectman Desrosiers presented to the Board a letter that was written to him from Kevin Jones, a student at Kearns Elementary School. He spoke of the Granby Oak being a symbol of Granby and the town should try to preserve a part of the damaged tree and donate it to the Historical Society. Selectman Desrosiers would like to forward the letter to the Granby Land Trust for their consideration of preserving a part of the tree. First Selectman Adams talked of the extreme damage that the tree has incurred during the recent storm and said the town will have experts look it over to see what can be done.

The Selectmen spent some time at the emergency operations center to see how things were going and were impressed with how well people worked together to get things done. They were very proud of Granby for their efforts.

Selectman Sally King wanted to remind the Selectmen of the problem of truck traffic on Day Street and hoped it could be discussed at the next meeting.

Selectman Kuhnly wanted to thank Town Manager Smith for his leadership during the storm crisis, along with the team of people that worked with him.

Student Liaison Tyler Dowling is anxious to get back to school and Nicole Kuhnly reported State Conference Championship games start Thursday.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager